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SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN :—" May I know what is the opinion expressed by the Committee with regard to the success of the much-talked of outdoor programme contained in the scheme? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I would request the hon. Member to take the trouble of going through the report."

Outbreak of cholera in certain areas in Malabar.

* 383 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of deaths due to the recent outbreak of cholera in Ponnani taluk, Malabar, and the measures taken to prevent the spread of the epidemic?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The number of deaths is 39. The measures taken for preventing the spread of the epidemic are the following :—

Disinfection of infected houses, chlorination of water-supply, intensive inoculations and propaganda regarding the precautions to be taken by the people. Distribution of milk-powder and rice to the poor people has also been undertaken. Orders have also been issued for opening a gruel centre for the relief of the coir labourers. "

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of the fact that the people in Ponnani taluk got this disease through starvation, will the Government consider the question of issuing instructions to the Collector of Malabar to supply more bags of rice to the people? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Steps will be taken to supply more rice if it is found quite essential."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" In view of the fact that a number of places are cholera affected, will the Government think of a more liberal distribution of ' deficiency drugs ' and vitamin tablets if they are not already doing it? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. A very large quantity of milk powder and multi-vitamin tablets has been distributed in Malabar."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" In order to prevent recurrence of cholera, will the Government consider the question of distributing more barrels of milk powder and multi-vitamin tablets? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. The largest portion of the milk powder and multi-vitamin tablets received from the UNICEF and a further quantity of milk powder donated by the American Friends Service Society have been allotted to Malabar district."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" May I know why there is such a high incidence of death in Malabar due to cancer, cholera, dysentery, etc.? "

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THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" It depends on the number of interpellations put in the House." (Laughter.)

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is it due to the continued neglect of the district by the Government? "

Outbreak of cholera in certain areas in Malabar.

* 384 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state— 10 a.m.

(a) how many persons died of cholera in Attapady and Thenkara amsams of Walluvanad taluk, Malabar, during the months of October, November and December 1953, up to date; and

(b) the measures taken by the Government to prevent the spread of this epidemic?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Seventy-two persons up to 12th December 1953.

" (b) Soon after the receipt of the report of infection, the range Health Inspector and the District Health Officer visited the villages and instituted control measures. Intensive inocula tions have been carried out. Necessary special staff has been concentrated in the area for preventive work."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" അട്ടപ്പാടിയിലും തെങ്കരയിലും പാലും മൾട്ടി വിററാമിൻ പിൽസും വിതരണം ചെയ്യാൻ വല്ല ഏർപ്പാടും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ ? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" I have already stated that a very large quantity was allotted to and distributed in Malabar district."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether this Government have received any instructions from the Government of India to take particular care of cases of dysentery and diarrhoea in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" This is a question about cholera, Sir."

Outbreak of cholera in certain areas in Malabar.

* 385 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) on what date Palghat taluk, Malabar, was notified as cholera-affected area; and

(b) how many cases of cholera and how many cholera deaths had been reported before such notification?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) On 3rd September 1953.

" (b) Thirteen attacks and 8 deaths had been reported before the notification."